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ANNUAL REPORT

Alberta
MANPOWER
Manpower Advisory Council

Alberta

CAREER DEVELOPMENT
AND EMPLOYMENT

18th Floor, Park Square
10001 Bellamy Hill
Edmonton, Alberta, Canada
T5J 3W5

March, 1987

Honourable Rick Orman
Minister
Alberta Career Development and Employment

Sir:

I have the honour to submit the 1985/86 Annual Report of the Manpower Advisory Council

Respectfully submitted,

G.S.H.Lock
Chairman

On September 12, 1986 the department's name changed from Alberta Manpower to Alberta Career Development and Employment. Subsequently, the Manpower Advisory Council became the Career Development and Employment Advisory Council. Because this report covers the period April 1, 1985 to March 31, 1986, the department is referred to as Alberta Manpower and the Council as the Manpower Advisory Council.

Statement of the Chairman	1
Manpower Advisory Council Members	2
Introduction	3
Recent Activities of Council	3
Current Activities of Council	3
Future Activities of Council	4
Conclusion	4

The Manpower Advisory Council is concerned with all issues which affect the labour force in Alberta. Over the years, the Council has taken cognizance of the remarkable changes in economic conditions which have occurred within the province and throughout the entire country. These changes have required the Council to address a continually shifting variety of issues.

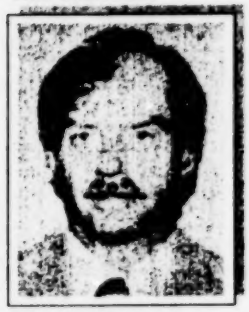
Through its varied membership the Council assesses current information on all sectors of the economy and welcomes representation from associations, companies, and individuals on any matter concerning career development and employment. With the continuing change in the needs of the Alberta labour force the Council will continue to adapt in offering relevant up-to-date advice to the Minister. On behalf of the Council may I say that the members look forward to the discussion and debate of these ongoing labour force issues.

[redacted]

Chairman

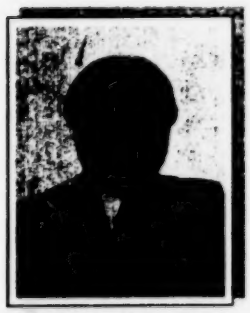
Dr. Gerry Lock
Department of
Mechanical Engineering
University of Alberta
Edmonton

Vice Chairman



Mr. Clayton Spence
Barrister and Solicitor
Fort McMurray

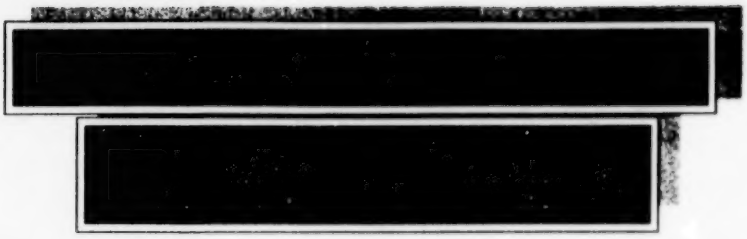
Ms. Sandra Scott
Businesswoman
Calgary



Mr. Clinton E. Dunford
C.E.D. Consulting Ltd.
Lethbridge

Mr. Leonard Pelland
Danbrook and Pelland
Plumbing
Grande Prairie

Mr. Durward Lukenbill
Businessman
Winfield



Introduction

The Manpower Advisory Council was established by the Government of Alberta in 1977 to conduct a continuing review of the labour force goals and needs of the province. The Council carries out their review and assessment in the public interest and thereby advises the Minister accordingly.

All sectors of the economic community are represented on Council. Members from management and unions have a voice in their discussion of labour force issues. Meetings are held at least five times in any given year.

The economic downturn experienced as a result of weak world prices for oil, natural gas, and grain has brought about major changes in the labour force. Alberta has moved from a period of high demand for workers to a period of low demand, along with changes in particular industrial sectors.This low demand is evident in the construction industry, the manufacturing industry and the oil and gas industry. At the same time the service industry has had a continuing growth in its labour force, but the jobs in this sector tend to be low-paying and part-time.

Recent Activities of the Council

A number of issues and concerns have been considered by the Council. In some cases, candid presentations were heard by the Council members; at times, these were discussed directly with the Minister.

The items included:

- Provincial employment and training programs.
- Entrepreneurial stimulus support.
- A Hospitality industry support proposal.
- Bill 35, the Apprenticeship, Training and Certification Act.
- First Aid Training in Technical Institutes.
- Plumbing Technician Course.
- Entrepreneurial immigration.
- Jurisdiction overlap of programs among provincial departments and with federal departments.

Current Activities of the Council

In the current period, the Advisory Council discussed a number of issues and informed the Minister of their concerns and or recommendations.

These included:

- Women's Employment Issues.
- Apprenticeship Training Issues.
- Native Employment Problems.
- Name and Content of Training Programs.
- Youth Employment Issues.
- Women in Non-Traditional Occupations.
- Canadian Jobs Strategy.
- Alberta Economic Outlook.

Future Activities of the Council

With the impact of changing economic conditions and slow population growth, there will continue to be new labour force issues requiring consideration.

These include:

- the maintenance of employment for professionals and technicians in the oil and gas industry;

- the differing impact of economic change on the labour market components of the industrial sectors;

- the increasing growth in the service industry and needed adjustments to low-paying and part-time work;

- structural shifts in the economy and emphasis on technology influencing the requirements for employment and training of the labour force;

- the labour force adjustments caused by the general increasing age level of the population and their needs.

- supporting improved relationships between governments and among business, labour, and industry associations to enhance the job creation environment for special groups in our society.

Conclusion

The decline in world oil prices and agricultural product prices has weakened Alberta's labour market development. Weak domestic demand will constrain prospects for employment growth. Continuing adjustments in the labour force, along with pay level modifications, can be expected.

The uncertain outlook on world oil prices, lacklustre performance of the United States economy and the relatively stagnant state of the Canadian economy indicates falling employment levels, except for the service industry, in Alberta.

Creating changes to the labour force will be crucial in charting a wise course for the Alberta economy. The response to such economic change and labour market adjustments is a major challenge to be met by the Council in offering advice to the government.